

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gary C. Cohn on August 10, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6 (currently amended). A manufacturing apparatus for a rubber sheet reinforced with a cord according to claim 1, wherein said cylindrical rotating body which ~~includes~~ is formed of a plurality of small rollers forming a roller group ~~on a peripheral surface of that cylindrical rotating body~~ is of variable diameter by varying a center distance of said small roller group.

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14 (currently amended). A manufacturing method for a rubber sheet reinforced with a cord, comprising the steps of:
supplying a rubber coated cord group through a supply guide to a pair of cylindrical rotating bodies, the cylindrical rotating ~~bodies rotating~~ bodies rotating in the same

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direction and wherein the axes of rotation of the cylindrical rotating bodies are disposed at an oblique, predefined angle to each other;

forming a cylindrical rubber sheet by continuously spirally wrapping the rubber coated cord group around the cylindrical bodies;

contacting the rubber coated cord continuously with more of the rubber coated cord already spirally wrapped on the pair of cylindrical rotating bodies;

and moving the cylindrical rubber sheet on the pair of cylindrical rotating bodies along an axial direction, characterized in that;

at least one of the pair of cylindrical rotating bodies ~~includes~~ is formed of a plurality of small rollers forming a roller group ~~on a peripheral surface of that cylindrical rotating body~~; and

the axis direction of each of the small rollers of the cylindrical rotating body is disposed obliquely at a predefined angle from parallel with the axis direction of the adjacent small rollers.

Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

17 (currently amended). A manufacturing method for a rubber sheet reinforced with a cord according to claim 14, comprising the step of finely adjusting a returning position of the rubber coated cord group by using a push over roller guide to position a rubber coated cord group which has made a circuit between said pair of cylindrical rotating bodies ~~as the rubber coated cord group returns to the former cylindrical rotating body~~.

Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

21 (currently amended). A manufacturing method for a rubber sheet reinforced with a cord according to claim 14, comprising the step of disposing the cord at a predefined angle α to a longitudinal direction of a sheet by using a cutter to cut said cylindrical rubber sheet spirally once the cylindrical rubber sheet has been formed by wrapping around said cylindrical rotating bodies.

Summary of above-noted August 10, 2010 (examiner-initiated) Interview: Agreement was reached on the above-noted changes to place this application into condition for allowance. The changes were proposed by the examiner by facsimile on August 5, 2010 accompanied by the following comments: "I have reviewed your amendment filed June 1, 2010 and am substantively in agreement that the claims would be allowable over the closest prior art for the reasons you state but am proposing several additional amendments to claims 6, 14, 17 and 21 to avoid several ambiguities. In particular, the proposed changes to claim 6 mirror those made to claim 1 and address the previous 112 rejections of claim 6. The proposed changes to claim 14 are made to (1) remove an inadvertent hyphen in line 4, (2) more clearly define the contacting step (i.e. the meaning of "more of") in a manner consistent with the claim 1 language, and (3) make the same changes to lines 13-15 that were made in claim 1 to address a previous 112 rejection. The proposed changes to claim 17 are made to address the previous 112 rejection of claims 4 and 17, the proposal being consistent with the change made by

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applicant to claim 4 to address the same rejection. The proposed change to claim 21 corrects an error in rewriting the claim in which several words were omitted.”

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are allowable for the reasons advanced by applicant in the remarks accompanying the 6/1/2010 response, the following added for emphasis. In particular, as argued by applicant, “the claim does not simply specify that the apparatus contains multiple small rollers. The claim goes further than that, requiring that these small rollers together form another body, which is both cylindrical and rotating.” As argued by applicant, the plural small rollers in Hall do not form a cylindrical *rotating* body as claimed. None of the closest prior art, then, whether taken singly or in combination, would teach or render obvious an apparatus or method as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey L. Knable whose telephone number is 571-272-1220. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on 571-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Geoffrey L. Knable/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791

G. Knable
August 10, 2010